

## James Monroe to Andrew Jackson, June 2, 1817, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

### PRESIDENT MONROE TO JACKSON.

Baltimore, June 2, 1817.

*Dear Sir.* I am so far on my tour, to the northward, and westward,<sup>1</sup> in which, it would give me great pleasure, if in concluding it, I could, so far, extend it, as to pass by, your residence. I fear, it will be impossible for me, to accomplish this object. It must then be reservd for a future occasion.

<sup>1</sup> Leaving Washington May 31, President Monroe made this summer a long tour, embracing Philadelphia, New York City, all the New England states, New York state, Buffalo to Detroit, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Maryland. *A Narrative of a Tour of Observation*, etc. (Philadelphia, 1818).

I have intended to write you fully on the subject of your last,<sup>2</sup> and should have done it, had I not felt a peculiar interest in regard to it, and been so engagd, in other concerns, preparatory to my departure, that it was impossible for me to do it. I hope to have leisure to morrow, in the steam boat, in which I pass, hence to Frenchtown. I have all the papers, with me relating to it.

<sup>2</sup> This seems to have been about Jackson's order of Apr. 22, 1817, called forth by the Long incident. Monroe took upon himself the office of peacemaker. It was a long time before he found a formula which he thought satisfactory to all. See Monroe to Jackson, Aug. 4 and Oct. 5, 1817, *post*.

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affairs are unsettled with Spain, and by recent intelligence from England, it appears that the British govt., is equipping two large Squadrons for the Spanish provinces, with a view, as it is professd, to accomodate the differences between the parties. It is inferr'd that that govt. has enterd into an agreement with Spain, in consideration of a commercial monopoly, to aid her to reduce the Colonies, or that she intends after getting the favor there, to dictate such conditions, as best suit her interest, to either, or both the parties. It seems probable, that this movment, of the British govt., may produce very serious consequences, among which, war, with other powers, may reasonably be presumed. It is certainly, a measure, fraught, with importance to the U States. In my next, Should I, in the interim, hear anything more on the subject I will inform you of it. . . .

[ *Appended to this letter is the following "note" by Jackson :* ]

*Note* Major Long was one of the Topographical engineers of my Division, The Sec of war having given me information of the hostile disposition of the northwestern Indians, and directed my attention to prepare for an Indian war in that section of country, and none of the Topographical engineers having reported to me, from their appointment under the act of congress organising the Genl Staff—I requested the Sec of war to order my Topographical engineers to my Division to report to me for duty that through them I might obtain a Topographical knowledge of the country I was to operate in. Major Long was ordered to report to [me] for duty—did so, and was ordered to report to Genl Smith who was specially instructed by me on the subject of the duty to be assingned to major Long. Long was ordered on this duty specially instructed by Genl S. and ordered to report to him, and the Genl to me every three months. Major Long entered on this duty, deserted the service, and the first information from him was a report thro the news papers that he was at New York, by the orders of the Sec of War. When the sec of war was requested to order him to repair to my division on his doing so he produced this and an extract of 2nd of July 1817. This produced my order directing no officer in my Division to obay any order unless

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coming thro my adjutant Genls. office. See correspondence on this subject with the war Department and Genl Smith.